Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): In a network of devices, a method for monitoring the configuration and/or status of said devices, comprising the steps of:

launching a device monitoring tool on at least one of said devices on said network;

said monitoring tool launching one or more data collectors on one or more target devices, said target devices being the devices on the network that are to be monitored;

said data collectors collecting status and configuration data about target devices and passing said data back to said monitoring tool;

said monitoring tool uploading said data to a central site, wherein the uploading comprises splitting the data into multiple data chunks and transmitting the data chunks separately to the central site, the transmitting comprising transferring each of the data chunks over a link in the network between the at least one of said devices and the central site according to a transfer protocol wherein each of the data chunks may be subject to packetization;

at the central site, merging the data chunks to create a data file; and

at said central site, loading said data file into a database[[.]] :

wherein the monitoring tool is further adapted for listening to a storage location at the at least one of the devices to determine if the storage location has an available data file comprising at least a portion of said data from the data collectors and when determined available, initiating the uploading of said available data file to the central site.

2

WBO - 601068/0295 - 175847 v1

Claim 2 (original):   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of accessing said database to obtain information about said target devices.

Claim 3 (original):   The method as recited in claim 2, wherein said step of accessing said database comprises the steps of:

using a web browser, sending a request for information to said central site via the Internet;

at said central site, issuing a command to the database to retrieve the requested information; and

sending the retrieved information back to the web browser via the Internet.

Claim 4 (original):   The method as recited in claim 3, further comprising the step of formatting the retrieved information into a report format prior to the step of sending the retrieved information back.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented):   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of accessing a configuration file to determine which data collectors are to be run on which target devices.

Claim 7 (original):   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

said monitoring tool communicating with the central site to determine if newer releases of the monitoring tool or the data collectors exist, or to determine if there are additional data collectors; and

if newer releases exist or if there are additional data collectors, downloading the newer releases or additional data collectors from the central site.

3

WBO - 801G0/0295 - 175047 v1

Claim 8 (original):   The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

prior to launching the one or more data collectors on the one or more target devices, starting a remote analysis program on the one or more target devices, the remote analysis program for monitoring and managing the execution of the data collectors on the one or more target devices.

Claim 9 (currently amended):   A system for monitoring the configuration and/or status of devices on a network, comprising:

a monitoring application to be run on a first device on the network, said monitoring application being configured to coordinate the monitoring of one or more target devices on the network;

data collector modules to be run on the one or more target devices, the data collector modules being configured to collect configuration and/or status data about said target devices, said data collector modules being launched on said one or more target devices by said monitoring application and said monitoring application accessing a configuration file to determine which of the data collector modules to run on which ones of the target devices; and

an upload application to be run on said first device, said upload application being configured to receive said data from said data collector modules and upload the data to a central site[[.]] ⌄

wherein the upload application listens to a storage location at the first device to determine if the storage location has an available data file comprising at least a portion of said data from said data collector modules and when determined available, initiating the uploading of the data to the central site.

Claim 10 (original): The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising a remote analysis application to be run on said one or more target devices, said remote analysis application being started on said one more target devices by said

4

monitoring application, said remote analysis application being configured to monitor and manage the execution of the data collectors on said one or more target devices.

Claims 11-12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (original): The system as recited in claim 9, wherein said data is stored at said first location, and wherein said first location comprises a graphical user interface for viewing said data.

Claim 14 (original): The system as recited in claim 9, further comprising means for accessing said data at said central site.

Claims 15-16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (original): The system as recited in claim 9, wherein said monitoring application is configured to communicate with the central site to determine if a newer release of the system is available, and if a newer release of the system is available, said monitoring application being configured to download and install the newer release of the system.

Claim 18 (currently amended):   A method for monitoring a set of information for a plurality of computer devices linked to a digital communications network, comprising:

  starting a data collection tool on a one of the network devices;

  retrieving a configuration file with the data collection tool;

  using the configuration file to identify a set of the network devices to be monitored;

  running one or more data collectors on the identified network devices, each of the data collectors collecting differing sets of information for a corresponding one of the identified network devices; [[and]]

5

transmitting the collected set of information from the identified network devices to the data collection tool on the one of the network devices[[.]] ; and

operating an upload tool on the one of the network devices to listen to a storage location at the one of the network devices to determine if the storage location has an available data file comprising at least a portion of the collected set of information and when determined available, uploading the available data file to a central site over a communications network.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein the configuration file comprises a listing of the data collectors to be run on each of the identified network devices.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein the configuration file comprises a listing of the differing sets of the information to be included in the passed collected set of information.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein the using of the configuration file to identify the network devices to be monitored comprises obtaining a list of remote hosts names from a name service.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The method of claim 21, further wherein the using of the configuration file comprises applying filter rules to the list of remote hosts names and including only the remote host names in the list that comply with the filter rules in the identified network devices.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The method of claim 6, wherein the configuration file defines a size of the data chunks.

Claim 24 (canceled)

6